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The island of Ceylon had a 1963 population of 10,625,000 and an agricultural economy based upon tea, rubber, coconuts, and rice. Fishing and industrial expansion are receiving emphasis. Economic problems include a declining rate of growth in gross national product, unemployment, and a limited range of exports. Education, under control of the Minister of Education, is compulsory between the ages of five and 14 and is free through the university. Six years of primary education flows into junior secondary, senior secondary, or collegiate schools. Admittance to a technical or teacher training college is possible from collegiate or senior secondary schools, while admittance to a university or law college requires collegiate school completion. Junior secondary students may enter vocational schools. Primary and secondary enrollment was 2,325,000 in 1962. Vocational and technical education is conducted at the university, a technical institute, a trade school, seven junior technical schools, and a basic technical training institute at various levels. Teachers are educated primarily by study abroad, for which scholarships are provided. No regular scheme of apprenticeships exists, though large firms provide systematic training with released time. In-industry training exists in a few larger firms. A technical education commission report details future developments of technical education and training. (JM)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
OFFICE OF EDUCATION

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Outline

of

Vocational Training

in

CEYLON

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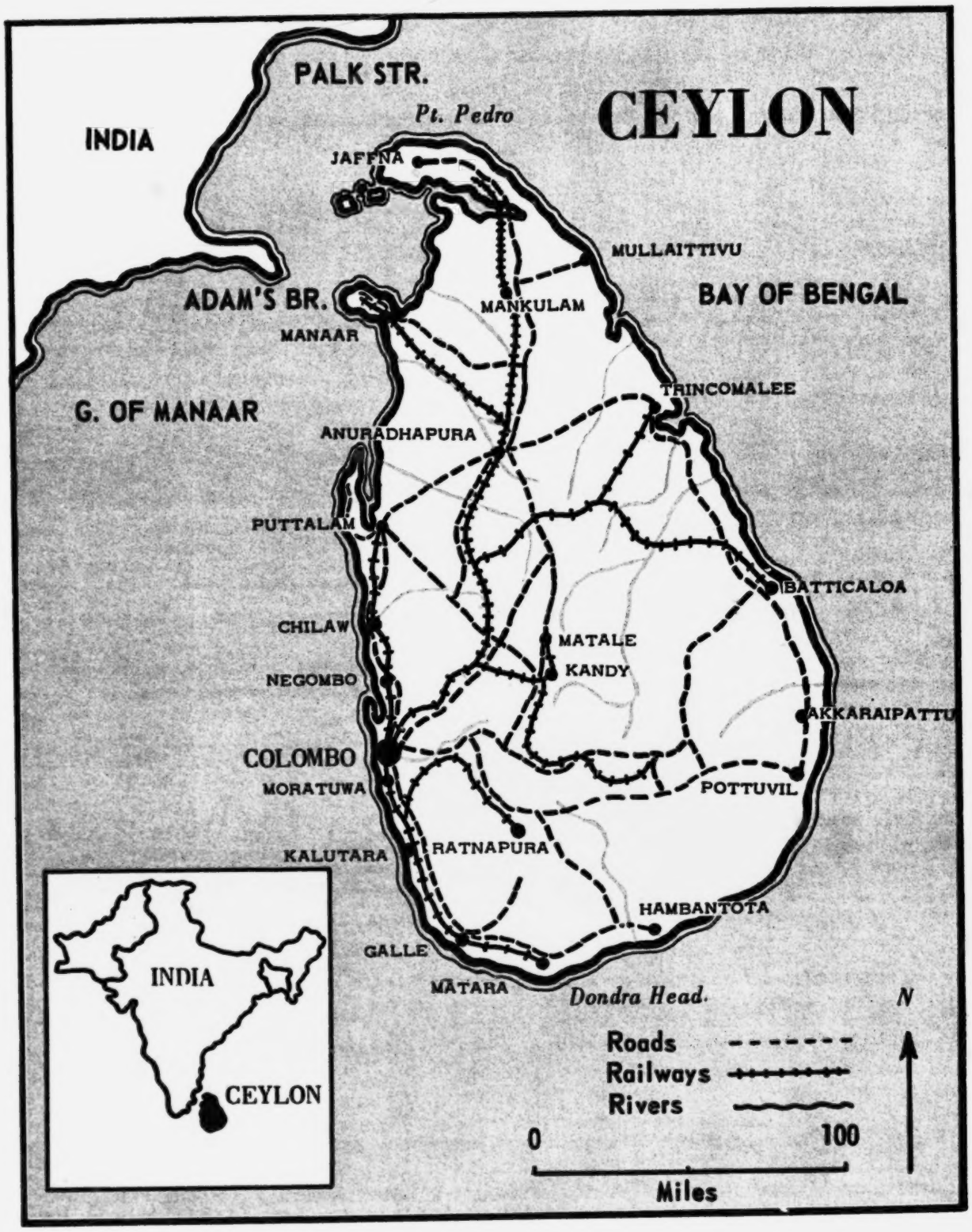
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CONTENTS

Frontispiece: Map of Ceylon

		Page
1.	Introduction	6
	Area, Population	6
	Primary Industry	6
	Secondary Industry	6
	General Economic Development	7
2.	General Education	9
3.	Technical Education	10
	Organization and Administration	10
	Types of Institutions and Courses	10
	Arrangements for Technical Teacher Training	11
4.	Apprenticeship	12
5.	Accelerated Vocational Training	12
6.	In-Industry Training	13
7.	National Planning for Vocational Training	13

1. Introduction

Area, Population

The island of Ceylon covers an area of 25,332 square miles. The census of 1963 recorded the population as 10,625,000.

Primary Industry

Ceylon has a basically agricultural economy. A little over one-quarter of the island is under cultivation, the principal crops being tea, rubber, coconuts and rice. Tea and rubber production have both increased substantially during the 1963-1967 Five-Year Plan, largely as a result of the extensive use of fertilisers and the replanting of 90,000 acres.

A further third of Ceylon is under permanent pasture, and is grazed chiefly by cattle, sheep, buffaloes and goats.

Fishing and mineral production are also important primary activities, and the Five-Year Plan has aimed at developing both inland and coastal fishing resources as well as the production of graphite and salt.

Secondary Industry

In the industrial sector, a Ten-Year Plan (1958-1967), aims at rapid expansion, particularly in the manufacture of tiles, cement, fertilizers, small tools, and in petroleum refining. In 1961, industry and power contributed less than 13 per cent to Ceylon's national income, but it is hoped to increase this proportion to 23.5 per cent by 1968.

Ceylon has planned its growth in terms of the public sector, undertaking all large-scale capital goods industries, and has left the smaller and consumer goods industries to private enterprise. During the period 1958-1962, however, development in the public sector encountered difficulties, and lagged behind schedule. Nevertheless, with the private sector more than fulfilling its share, total industrial production increased.

General Economic Development

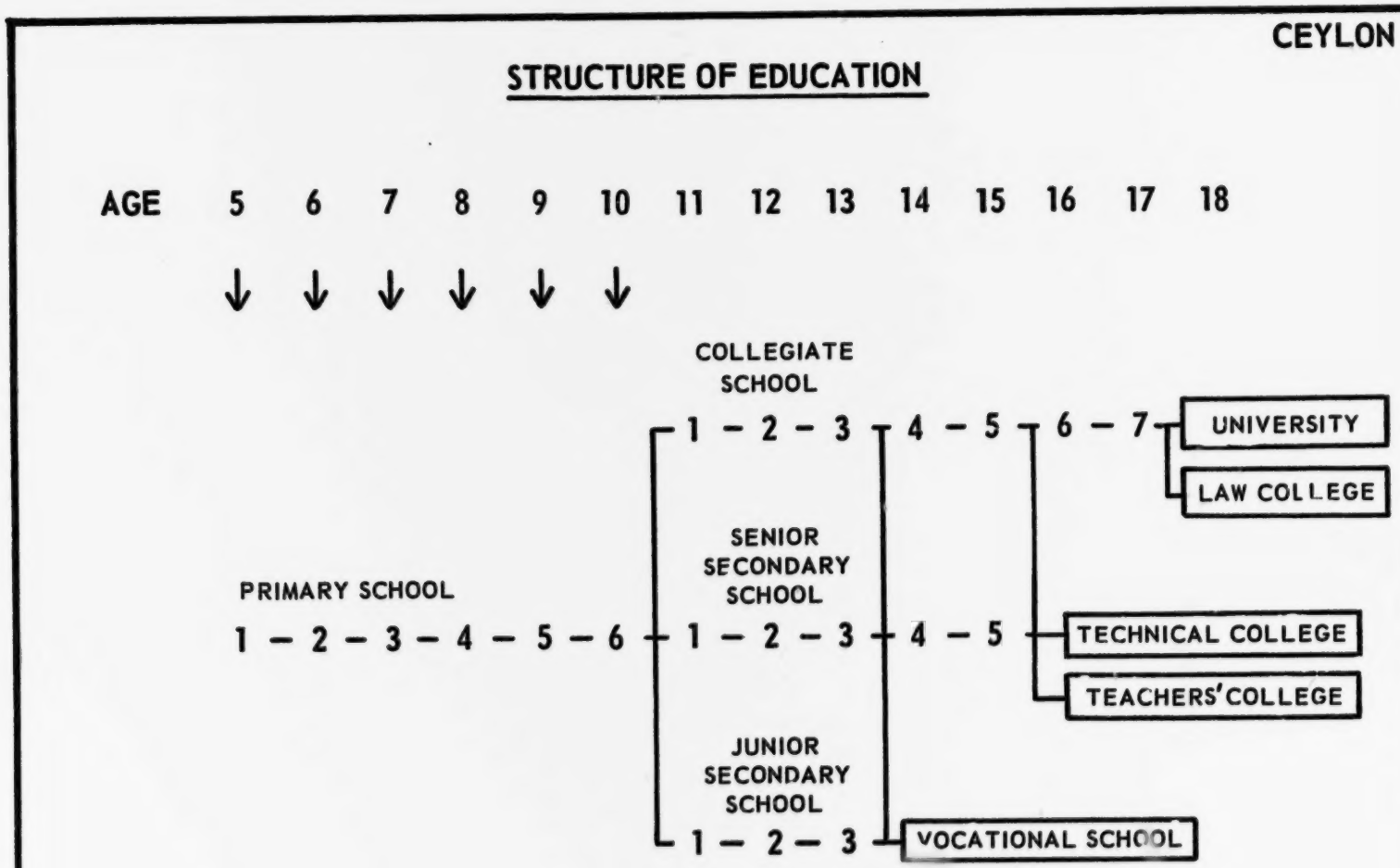
Ceylon is faced with a number of economic problems, the most serious of which is the acute shortage of foreign exchange. However, it is expected that foreign aid will help to alleviate the situation.

Although industrial production rose by 15 per cent. in 1962, and 11 per cent in 1963, the rate of growth of the gross national product is declining—it showed only a four per cent increase in 1962 and less than a two per cent increase in 1963. As the population continues to grow, no increase in per capita income will be possible until this trend is reversed. Inevitably it is intensifying the country's already serious unemployment problem.

Ceylon's problems have been intensified by an increase in import prices and, in common with most developing countries, the need to rely on export income from a relatively narrow range of primary products. The Government is therefore aiming at a programme of general industrialisation and export diversification, designed both to increase employment opportunities and stabilise export incomes.

CEYLON

STRUCTURE OF EDUCATION


AGE 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18
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JUNIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL
1 – 2 – 3
4 – 5
4 – 5
6 – 7
UNIVERSITY
LAW COLLEGE
TECHNICAL COLLEGE
TEACHERS' COLLEGE
VOCATIONAL SCHOOL

2. General Education

Education is under the control of the Ministry of Education. It is compulsory between the ages of 5 and 14 years, and is free from kindergarten to university.

Primary education covers a period of six years and leads to one of three secondary streams: senior secondary, junior secondary or collegiate. During the first three years, all three offer similar courses and students may leave at the end of the third year to enter a vocational school. Junior secondary schools do not go beyond this level, but after a further two years at either collegiate or senior secondary school, students may enter either a technical college or a teacher-training college. To qualify for either university or law college, the student must complete a further two years at a collegiate school.

In 1957, there were 1,882,000 children enrolled in primary and secondary schools, but, by 1962, this number had risen to 2,325,000. Secondary enrolments alone increased by nearly 40 per cent, so that by 1962, more than 60 per cent of children in the 15-19 year age-group were attending school compared with only 42 per cent in 1957.

3. Technical Education

Organization and Administration

The Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs has the responsibility of organizing and administering technical education in Ceylon. It has set up a new Department of Technical Education and Training, with three Deputy Directors—one in charge of technical education and apprenticeship training, one in charge of commercial education and the third in charge of administration.

Two advisory boards, with representatives of the public and private sectors as members, have been set up to advise on technical and commercial education.

The Department of Labour administers courses at trade level that are mainly for registered unemployed persons.

Types of Institutions and Courses

The University of Ceylon offers four-year degree courses in civil, mechanical and electrical engineering, and has some one hundred-and-fifty students in the engineering faculty.

The Institute of Practical Technology at Katubedde has taken over the engineering courses formerly provided at the Ceylon Technical College, and, in general, caters for sub-technical grades. Two-year full-time technician courses are available in civil, electrical, mechanical and chemical engineering. There are also one-year courses for draughting apprentices, and surveyors and levellers; two-year part-time courses for engineering apprentices; and three-year evening courses in structural, municipal, electrical and mechanical engineering, and surveying and levelling.

Until courses can be transferred, the institute will continue to provide a five-year full-time course in architecture, and a two-year part-time course in electrical and mechanical engineering.

The Trades School of the Ceylon Technical College at Maradana, offers courses in workshop practice, motor mechanics (two-years' full-time), fitting, machining, pattern-making, printing, book-binding and carpenter's drawing (three years' evening), plumbing, radio servicing, electrical wiring (one year, evening).

At present, seven junior technical schools, in provincial capitals, offer two-year full-time trade courses in wood-work, metal-work, motor mechanics and electrical wiring. A further 18 will be opened in the future in every Government Agent District, and polytechnics will be set up at Galle, Kandy and Jaffna.

The Basic Technical Training Institute provides an 18-month course at pre-trade level, in the handling of tools and machines. This institute will soon be re-organized as a trades school and so will fall into the general pattern of institutions at this level.

Arrangements for Technical Teacher Training

There is no technical teacher-training college in Ceylon at present, but the Ceylon Technical College provides a two-year course for the practical training of workshop teachers in wood-work, metal-work, draughting and handicrafts.

An "ad hoc" scheme for training instructors is in operation, and twenty-two are being trained. Provision is also made for scholarships for practising teachers, so they may study abroad. Ten teachers are at present studying under such scholarships in Britain, Canada and Australia.

4. Apprenticeship

There is no regular scheme of organized apprenticeship training on a national basis. Only the larger, private undertakings and some Government establishments provide systematic training. They release engineering apprentices for two days per week to attend the Institute of Practical Technology.

5. Accelerated Vocational Training

The Department of Labour provides a small number of intensified courses so that adults may acquire trade skills in a shorter period than usual. This training is conducted at the Trades Testing Centre at Urugodawatte.

6. In-industry Training

There is no Government or industrial organization responsible for the promotion or development of in-industry training and only a few of the larger Government departments and private undertakings are active in this area. The training programmes conducted are usually for apprentices and semi-skilled workers, although some firms arrange internal management courses.

The only other form of in-industry training in Ceylon is through the Training-Within-Industry Scheme, which was introduced several years ago with I.L.O. assistance.

There are few full-time training officers in Ceylon although a number of part-time officers are employed by Government workshops and the larger private undertakings. There are no facilities for training industrial training officers.

7. National Planning for Vocational Training

The Technical Education Commission has presented a report which forms the basis of plans for the future development of technical education and training. It has recommended the establishment of a Directorate of Manpower so that the national requirements for skilled manpower may be kept under constant review.

To meet the national demand for technologists, technicians and tradesmen, vocational training facilities in Ceylon will be extended. The Faculty of Engineering in the University of Ceylon, will be enlarged to cope with a larger student intake, some junior technical schools will be elevated to polytechnics, and a teachers' college will be established to provide trained teachers in vocational institutions.